REMARKS

Applicant wishes to express appreciation to the Examiner for the indication of allowance for Claims 9, 10, 40, and 41.

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 49, and 50 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of the remainder of pending Claims 2-6, 8, 12-19, 38, 39, and 42-46 are respectfully requested in the view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In particular, Claims 2-6, 8, 12-14, 18, 19, 38, and 39 have been amended to change their respective dependencies from canceled Claim 1 to allowed Claim 9. The remaining dependent claims already depend indirectly from either of allowed Claim 9 or Claim 40. Favorable consideration of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

By the present amendments, all of dependent Claims 2-6, 8, 12-19, 38, 39, and 42-46 depend from either of allowed independent Claims 9 or 40. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been rendered moot, and should be withdrawn.

The aforementioned rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) include:

- The rejection of Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-19, 38, 39 and 42-46, and 49 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,615,253 to Bowman-Amuah and U.S. Patent No. 6,567,846 to Garg *et al*.

- The rejection of Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-19, 38, 39 and 42-46, 49, and 50 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,615,253 to Bowman-Amuah and U.S. Patent No. 6,275,957 to Novik *et al.*

- The rejection of Claims 1-6, 8, 12-19, 38, 39 and 42-46, 49, and 50 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,567,846 to Garg, *et al.* and U.S. Patent No. 6,275,957 to Novik et al.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and therefore early and forthright Notice to that effect are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

LEE & HAYES, pllc

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By: _____

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